

## REMARKS

Claims 1-21 of the subject application are currently pending, and have been rejected by the Examiner. In the accompanying amendment, claims 1, 10, and 19 have been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the written description, claims, and drawings of the specification as originally filed. On account of the foregoing list support for the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not add new matter.

Claim 1 as amended includes the following limitations:

“a plurality of memory card interfaces, with at least a subset of the plurality of memory card interfaces being selectively operable to interface with a plurality of memory cards of a first type in parallel.”

(Claim 1, emphasis added)

Takesa (US 6,381,513) discloses electronic information distributing equipment comprising a plurality of memory cards that are accessible by a memory card interface 223 in parallel (see abstract, at column 13, lines 5-20). One advantage of the parallel access of the memory cards disclosed in Takesa is that information distribution can be promptly serviced by discharging the memory cards 1 of the card stock 225 while making it unnecessary to write information into the inserted memory cards individually (see column 18, lines 5-15). The number of memory cards accessed in parallel is based on the abilities of the card machine system 224 and the memory card interface 223 (see column 16, lines 20-25) and is not subject to selection. Thus, Takesa fails to teach or suggest card interfaces that are selectively operable to interface with a plurality of memory cards of a first type in parallel, as recited in claim 1.

Pua (US 2002/0178307) discloses a multiple memory card adaptor that comprises an interface for various types of memory cards (see abstract). However, Pua fails to teach or suggest that the interface is selectively operable to interface with the various types of memory cards in parallel. The Examiner argues, on page 4 of the Office Action mailed May 27, 2004, that the teachings of Takesa may be modified in view of Pua so that the memory card interface 223 disclosed in Takesa may be operable to access memory cards of different types in parallel.

Applicants, however, respectfully disagree with the Examiner in this regard. Firstly, Takesa discloses an information distribution terminal, whereas Pua discloses a multiple memory card adaptor. As such, Takesa does not teach or suggest a combination with Pua, nor does Pua teach or suggest a combination with Takesa. Moreover, it would be impermissible hindsight based on Applicants' own disclosure to combine the teachings of Takesa and Pua.

Further, the combined teachings of Takesa and Pua fails to teach or suggest all limitations of claim 1, as amended. For example, the combined teachings of Takesa and Pua fail to teach or suggest that the memory card interface 223 of Takesa is selectively operable to interface with a plurality of memory cards of the first type in parallel. That this is indeed the case can be seen from the fact that Takesa is teaching that the number of memory cards accessible in parallel should be maximized subject to the abilities of the card machine system 224 and the memory card interface 223 so that users may be provided with desired information in a very short time (see column 16, lines 20-25, and column 15, lines 55-65), and is a teaching way from selecting a subset of the memory cards for parallel access.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the combination of Takesa and Pua.

Given that claims 2-9 depend on claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also not anticipated or rendered obvious by the combination of Takesa and Pua.

Independent claims 10 and 19 include limitations similar in scope to the above-discussed limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 10, and 19 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the combination of Takesa and Pua.

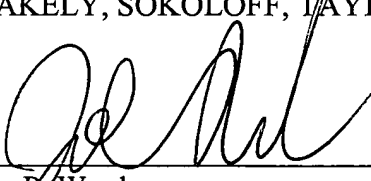
Given that claims 11-18, and 20-21 depend on claims 10, and 19, respectively, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also not anticipated or rendered obvious in view of the combination of Takesa and Pua.

In these circumstances, Applicants submit that all rejections to the claims have now been overcome, and the Examiner is accordingly earnestly solicited to allow the claims.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicants hereby request such an extension.

Respectfully submitted,  
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Dated: 6/16, 2004

  
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John F. Ward  
Reg. No. 40,216

Customer No. 008791  
12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030  
(408) 720-8300